

Lewis and Clark/Undaunted Courage Book Study Parent Letter

Your child has indicated an interest in participating in an enrichment activity as part of our 8th grade American History course. As an effort to provide more challenging curriculum for our high level learners, we will be offering a book study during our Lewis and Clark expedition unit. This is an optional choice where students will read the book Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose. The book is a vivid and detailed description of the journey of the Corps of Discovery as they explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory.

It is a challenging book, with 484 pages and a Lexile level of 1190- which means it is written at a high school reading level. It will require students to have self discipline and commit to a lot of reading time outside of class. This book study is open to any student, but we encourage you to discuss with your student if they think they will be able to follow through and read the entire book. If your student struggles with homework completion this may not be the best choice for them. Students who fall behind may be asked to leave the book study and return to the regular curriculum. Students who choose the book study will be required to complete a few of the regular classroom activities during the unit, but during other times they will be given time to read the book.

In addition to reading, students who choose to participate in the book study will be demonstrating their learning by participating in an online discussion with other students and the teachers as they read the book. The teachers will post and monitor questions in an online wiki format, and students will log in and post answers to the questions and responses to other students' contributions. Students who do not abide by the discussion rules may be asked to leave the book study.

A cautionary note: This book briefly mentions a sexual relationship between some members of the expedition and Native Americans. The importance is minor, and the detail is not great, but we wanted you to be aware of this before deciding with your child whether or not they read the book.

If your student decides to participate with your approval, please sign below to indicate that they have your approval and support. The first 30 students to return this sheet signed will be able to check out a copy from the school. Any additional students are welcome and encouraged to participate, but they will need to check out the book from the public library, or purchase it. Books can be purchased for around \$12.00 on Amazon.com or downloaded to a digital reader. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thanks!

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Waukee Prairieview School 8th Grade Social Studies Teachers

Parent Signature

Student Signature